

[Application No.: 09/934,904
Docket No.: DP-6670 US NA]

Page 2

26. (New.) The process of claim 24 wherein the relaxation is carried out by heating the crimped filaments in an unconstrained condition for 1-60 minutes.

27. (New.) The process of claim 23 wherein the temperature of the relaxation is 60°C or above for 1-60 minutes.

28. (New.) The process of claim 24 wherein the temperature of the relaxation is 60°C or above.

29. (New.) The process of claim 23 wherein the temperature of the relaxation is 60°C or above and the relaxation is carried out by heating the crimped filaments in an unconstrained condition by passing the filaments through an oven at a rate of 50-200 yards/minute for 6-20 minutes.

30. (New.) The process of claim 24 wherein the temperature of the relaxation is 60°C or above and the relaxation is carried out by heating the crimped filaments in an unconstrained condition by passing the filaments through an oven at a rate of 50-200 yards/minute for 6-20 minutes.

31. (New.) The process of claim 6 wherein the temperature of the relaxation is below 100°C.

32. (New.) The process of claim 6 wherein the temperature of the relaxation is 80°C or below for 1-60 minutes.

33. (New.) The process of claim 31 wherein the relaxation is carried out by heating the crimped filaments in an unconstrained condition.

34. (New.) The process of claim 32 wherein the relaxation is carried out by heating the crimped filaments in an unconstrained condition.

35. (New.) The process of claim 31 wherein the temperature of the relaxation is 60°C or above for 1-60 minutes.

36. (New.) The process of claim 32 wherein the temperature of the relaxation is 60°C or above.

37. (New.) The process of claim 31 wherein the temperature of the relaxation is 60°C or above and the relaxation is carried out by heating the crimped filaments in an unconstrained condition by passing the filaments through an oven at a rate of 50-200 yards/minute for 6-20 minutes.

38. (New.) The process of claim 32 wherein the temperature of the relaxation is 60°C or above and the relaxation is carried out by heating the crimped filaments in an unconstrained condition by passing the filaments through an oven at a rate of 50-200 yards/minute for 6-20 minutes.

39. (New.) The process of claim 31 wherein the annealing is carried out under tension using heated rollers.

40. (New.) The process of claim 32 wherein the annealing is carried out under tension using heated rollers.

Application No.: 09/934,904
Docket No.: DP-6670 US NA

Page 3

41. (New.) The process of claim 36 wherein the annealing is carried out under tension using heated rollers.

42. (New.) The process of claim 39 wherein the annealing is carried out under tension using heated rollers.

43. (New.) The process of claim 1 wherein the drawing is carried out using two-stage drawing.

44. (New.) The process of claim 43 wherein the two stage drawing comprises (a) a first stage drawing at room temperature and (b) the remaining drawing with the fiber immersed in atmospheric steam set to 90-100°C.

45. (New.) The process of claim 44 wherein 80-90% of the total draw is done in the first stage and 10-20% of the drawing is done in the remaining drawing.

46. (New.) The process of claim 43 wherein the two stage drawing comprises (a) a first stage drawing at room temperature and (b) the remaining drawing with the fiber immersed in a heated water spray.

47. (New.) The process of claim 46 wherein 80-90% of the total draw is done in the first stage and then the remaining 10-20% of the draw is done in the remaining drawing.

48. (New.) The process of claim 1 wherein the water spray is heated to 65°C.

49. (New.) The process of claim 1 wherein the drawing is carried out using single-stage drawing.

50. (New.) The process of claim 49 wherein tension and a water spray are applied to the drawn filament after drawing.

51. (New.) The process of claim 1 wherein the drawing is carried out using a draw ratio of about 1.25 - about 4.

52. (New.) The process of claim 43 wherein the drawing is carried out using a draw ratio of about 1.25 - about 4.

53. (New.) The process of claim 45 wherein the drawing is carried out using a draw ratio of about 1.25 - about 4.

54. (New.) The process of claim 47 wherein the drawing is carried out using a draw ratio of about 1.25 - about 4.